

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING ON ABANDONED HOUSE :

LOCATION: 601 W. VIRGINIA

OWNERS: CHARLES M./MARI ANN PARKER

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Scott Huss, Mike Batchelder, Kevin Lackey, Mari Ann Parker and Jerry Twombly.

ALSO PRESENT: Joel Euler, Malcolm Grier, Stanley McCauley, Randy Snyder, Dennis Lentz, Brandon Whetstine and Bill Butrick. John Wood arrived at 7:15 p.m.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ken Stewart

The Public Hearing opened at 6:30 p.m. with a closed door meeting with only acting City Attorney Joel Euler, City Code Enforcement Consultant Malcolm Grier and property owner Marin Ann Parker present.

6:40 p.m. Mr. Euler requested the city hold a fifteen minute executive session to discuss legal matters. Scott Huss moved to go into executive session for fifteen minutes to discuss legal matters and for acting City Attorney Joel Euler, Code Enforcement Consultant Malcolm Grier, Police Chief Brandon Whetstine and City Clerk Bill Butrick to remain. Mike Batchelder 2nd, motion carried 4-0.

6:55 p.m. Kevin Lackey moved to come out of executive session. Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Euler opened the Public Hearing by questioning Mr. Grier on the condition of the structure in question.

Mr. Grier was asked about the roof, foundation, interior walls, flooring and even the condition of the basement. Mr. Grier stated, that in his opinion, the house was definitely considered a dangerous structure and could only be repaired if the owner was willing to pay a significant amount of money to restore it. Mr. Grier explained that the tarp on the roof was basically only covering about 2/3 of the opening which exposed the entire interior to water damage. In his opinion the roof and foundation would need to be totally replaced. He stated he was unable to determine the exact damage to the basement area because of being unable to see the south portion due to a porch that was built in that area.

Mari Ann Parker stated she had contacted John Wood to give her a rough estimate to repair the house and that figure at this time was between \$125,000 to \$231,000. She explained that she

wanted to restore the house because of the history behind it and that she had looked into possible grants to help with financing the repairs and also mentioned tax credit incentives that may be available. Mrs. Parker said she would like to eventually donate the house and property to Highland Community College for a place to hold receptions or as a guest house should the college be interested.

Mrs. Parker asked that Contractor John Wood be asked his opinion on the condition of the house and that he was on his way to the meeting.

Mr. Wood was basically asked the same questions upon his arrival by acting City Attorney Joel Euler that were asked of the city's consultant Malcolm Grier.

Mr. Wood stated that he felt the entire roof would not need to be replaced, that the windows could be rebuilt and the foundation could be repaired. He did however state the overall condition of the house was poor. Mr. Euler asked Mr. Wood questions concerning possible termite damage, wiring and plumbing and if the house belonged to him, would he consider repairing it. Mr. Wood stated he had just started looking into possible repairs and was unable at this time to answer some of the questions being asked but did say he might possibly restore the house if it belonged to him.

Mr. Wood was asked about a time frame to repair the house and stated that he would be looking at between 9 and 18 months.

Council member Jerry Twombly asked if the figure of \$200,000 was out of line to repair the house and Mr. Wood stated that it was not out of line.

Mayor Ken Stewart asked for public comment.

Stanley McCauley, neighbor to the property, was asked his opinion. Mr. McCauley stated it was time to get something done one way or another and it needed to be done as soon as possible because it has been long enough now.

7:30 p.m. Scott Huss moved to go back into executive session for ten minutes to continue discussion on legal matters and for the same people to remain as before. Kevin Lackey 2nd, motion carried 4-0.

7:40 p.m. Jerry Twombly moved to come out of executive session. Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Stewart reconvened the meeting and informed Mrs. Parker of the following stipulations:

1. To have a plan in place within 30 days.
2. This plan must include all estimates and bids to repair the house.
3. This plan must include proof of financing and at least ½ of the funds shall be made available for inspection for repair of the house.
4. That the public hearing will be extended to January 19, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. for the city governing body to review the requested information.

7:45 p.m. Scott Huss moved to adjourn the meeting until January 19, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers at the Highland City Hall. Kevin Lackey 2nd, motion carried 4-0.

Mayor

City Clerk